

**CLAIMS**

1. A hood for protecting the head of a user, said hood  
5 comprising: a flexible skin for providing protection for the user's head; and a foldable frame, operative to support said flexible skin; where said flexible skin is attached to said foldable frame; where said foldable frame is un-foldable to a first position where said  
10 foldable frame supports said flexible skin, surrounding at least a portion of the user's head and spaced from the head of the user; and where said foldable frame is foldable to a second position where said foldable frame and said flexible skin are stowed at said second position, with said flexible skin clear of the user's head.
- 15 2. A hood, according to claim 1, wherein said foldable frame comprises: a first hinge, for attachment proximate to the front of a collar on a first side of a garment; and a second hinge, for attachment proximate to the front of the collar on a second side of the garment; where the foldable frame comprises one or more frame  
20 elements, extending from said first hinge to said second hinge and pivotable there-about.
3. A hood, according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said  
25 foldable frame comprises one or more substantially rigid frame members, the one or more substantially rigid frame members being pivotable about the first and second hinges between said first position and said second position.
4. A hood, according to claim 3, wherein said one or more  
30 substantially rigid frame members comprise two or more substantially rigid frame members, a first substantially rigid frame member being pivotal about said hinges, said first substantially rigid frame member comprising first and second pivots on either side thereof, and second and subsequent substantially rigid frame members being  
35 affixed at their ends to pivot about the first and second pivots.

5. A hood, according to claim 3, wherein said foldable frame comprises one or more substantially flexible members, said one or more substantially flexible members being twistable upon themselves from the first position, where the foldable frame is in a first stable configuration and extended, to the second position, where the foldable frame assumes a second stable configuration where the foldable frame is looped upon itself.

6. A hood, according to claim 5, wherein said one or more substantially flexible frame members comprise two or more substantially flexible frame members, a first substantially flexible frame member being pivotal about said hinges, said first substantially flexible frame member comprising first and second pivots on either side thereof, and second and subsequent substantially flexible frame members being affixed at their ends to pivot about the first and second pivots.

7. A hood, according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said first position comprises said foldable frame, when the user is wearing the garment, supporting the flexible skin to protect the top, sides and rear of the user's head; and wherein the second position comprises the foldable frame and the flexible skin being disposed behind the collar on the back of the garment.

8. A hood, according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said foldable frame is operative to extend the flexible skin when in said first position, and wherein said foldable frame is operative to collapse the flexible skin when in the second position.

9. A hood, according to any one of the preceding claims, removably attachable to a garment.

10. A hood, according to any one of claims 1 to 9, provides as a permanent integral part of a garment:

11. A hood, according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said flexible skin comprises at least one of: fabric; opaque polymer sheet; and transparent polymer sheet.

5 12. A hood, according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said foldable frame comprises plastics material.

13. A hood, according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said foldable frame comprises an "L" shaped member, to allow the  
10 hood to reach forward over the wearer's face when said foldable frame is in said first position, and to enable the hood to lie flush against the back of the wearer when said foldable frame is in said second position.

14. A hood, according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said flexible frame is attached to said flexible skin by means of at least one of: sewing; insertion into a seam in the flexible skin; insertion into a portion of the flexible skin; gluing; hooks; press fittings; snap clips; and spring clips.

20 15. A foldable frame for use in a hood for protecting the head of a user, the hood having a flexible skin for providing protection for the user's head and said frame being operative to support the flexible skin; said frame comprising means for attachment for said  
25 flexible skin; said foldable frame being un-foldable to a first position where said foldable frame supports said flexible skin, surrounding at least a portion of the user's head and spaced from the head of the user; and said foldable frame being foldable to a second position where said foldable frame and said flexible skin are  
30 stowed at said second position, with said flexible skin clear of the user's head.

16. A foldable frame, according to claim 15, comprising: a first hinge, for attachment proximate to the front of a collar on a first  
35 side of a garment; and a second hinge, for attachment proximate to the front of the collar on a second side of the garment; where said

foldable frame comprises one or more frame elements, extending from said first hinge to said second hinge and pivotable there-about.

17. A foldable frame, according to claim 15 or claim 16,  
5 comprising one or more substantially rigid frame members, pivotable about the first and second hinges between said first position and said second position.

18. A foldable frame, according to claim 17, wherein said one or  
10 more substantially rigid frame members comprise two or more substantially rigid frame members; a first substantially rigid frame member being pivotal about said hinges and said first substantially rigid frame member comprising first and second pivots on either side thereof; and second and subsequent substantially rigid frame members  
15 being affixed at their ends to pivot about said first and second pivots.

19. A flexible frame, according to claim 17, comprising one or  
more substantially flexible members, said one or more substantially  
20 flexible members being twistable upon themselves from the first position, where the foldable frame is in a first stable configuration and extended, to the second position, where the foldable frame assumes a second stable configuration where the foldable frame is looped upon itself.

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20. A foldable frame, according to claim 117, wherein said one or more substantially flexible frame members comprise two or more substantially flexible frame members, a first substantially flexible frame member being pivotal about said hinges, said first  
30 substantially flexible frame member comprising first and second pivots on either side thereof, and second and subsequent substantially flexible frame members being affixed at their ends to pivot about the first and second pivots.

35 21. A foldable frame, according to any one of claims 15 to 20, wherein said first position comprises said foldable frame, when the user is wearing the garment, supporting the flexible skin to protect

the top, sides and rear of the user's head; and wherein said second position comprises said foldable frame and the flexible skin being disposed behind the collar on the back of the garment.

5 22. A foldable frame, according to any one of claims 15 to 21, operative to extend the flexible skin when in said first position, and operative to collapse the flexible skin when in the second position.

10 23. A foldable frame, according to any one of claims 15 to 22, removably attachable to a garment.

24. A foldable frame, according to any one of claims 15 to 22, provided as a permanent integral part of a garment.

15 25. A foldable frame, according to any one of claims 15 to 24, for use where the flexible skin comprises at least one of: fabric; opaque polymer sheet; and transparent polymer sheet.

20 26. A foldable frame, according to any one of claims 15 to 25, comprising plastics material.

27. A foldable frame, according to anyone of claims 15 to 26, comprising an "L" shaped member, to allow the hood to reach forward over the wearer's face when said foldable frame is in said first position, and to enable the hood to lie flush against the back of the wearer when said foldable frame is in said second position.

28. A foldable frame, according to any one of claims 15 to 27, attachable to the flexible skin by means of at least one of: sewing; insertion into a seam in the flexible skin; insertion into a portion of the flexible skin; gluing; hooks; press fittings; snap clips; and spring clips.